

Summary of Engineering and Planning (E&P) Subcommittee May 2, 2019 Meeting for MWPAAC General Meeting on May 22, 2019

Puget Sound Nutrient Source Reduction Project

- Portions of the Salish Sea (Puget Sound) have elevated levels of nitrogen from fertilizer runoff, septic systems, wastewater treatment plant discharges, and other sources. Nitrogen is a nutrient that accelerates algae and plankton growth, resulting in reduced levels of dissolved oxygen. The reduced levels of oxygen can harm sea life (including salmon) that may result in less fish for orca whales.
- The Department of Ecology has developed a computer model to simulate where nitrogen discharges to Puget Sound and how the discharges affect the levels of dissolved oxygen.
- WTD will be working with Ecology and other stakeholders in the Marine Water Quality Implementation Strategy and Forum over the next several years to conduct analyses using the model and to develop strategies for improving water quality so that the state dissolved oxygen standard can be met by 2040.

Toxics Study: Schedule and Procurement

- King County Council adopted Ordinance 18835 in November 2018 to evaluate the presence of toxics in King County wastewater effluent and their potential impacts on Southern Resident orcas and their food source (i.e., Chinook salmon)
- WTD is soliciting proposals from consultants to assess the effects, provide chemical characterization, and present a report to the Council (due by September 2020, but WTD is seeking an extension so that there is sufficient time to collect and analyze the data).
- WTD expects to select a consultant by summer 2019.

Questions?

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